

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-28 and 33-39 are pending. In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 18-24, 26-28, and 34 are currently amended, Claims 29-32 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 35-39 are added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 2, at page 6, line 9 to page 9, line 8, and in original Figures 1 and 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; the drawings were objected to; Claims 18-26, 28, 32, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Marriott (U.S. Patent No. 4,119,425); Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Marriott in view of Ruelle et al. (GB 2091527, hereinafter “Ruelle”); Claims 27 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Marriott in view of Shibata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,499, hereinafter “Shibata”); Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Marriott in view of Bethge et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,284,452, hereinafter “Bethge”); and Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Marriott in view of Gillary (U.S. Patent No. 4,820,902).

First, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Patel for the courtesy of an interview granted to Applicant’s representative on February 21, 2008, at which time the outstanding issues in this case were discussed. Amendments and arguments similar to the ones developed hereinafter were presented.

In response to the outstanding objection to the specification, it is noted that the specification is hereby amended such that the specification does not refer to claims. Additionally, a new Abstract is hereby submitted. Support for the new Abstract can be found

in the original specification, for example, page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 2 at page 6, line 9 to page 7, line 31, and in Figures 1 and 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection to the specification be withdrawn.

In response to the outstanding objection to the drawings, it is noted that Claims 29-32 are canceled by the present amendment. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding objection to the drawings is moot.

Turning now to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration of these rejections, as discussed below.

Amended Claim 18 recites:

A heatable composite pane, comprising:

a heating area including heating wires embedded in the composite pane, the composite pane having a trapezoidal outline;

at least two main busbars that connect ends of a first group of heating wires to one another electrically in parallel and that are located opposite along side edges of the composite pane, which run parallel to one another, and at least one of the busbars extends along the side edge in an area of an outer triangular surface of the trapezoidal outline, wherein

the outer triangular surface of the trapezoidal outline includes at least a second group and a third group of heating wires that can be fed electrically via the busbars and that run essentially parallel to one another,

in the area of the outer triangular surface, heating wires in the second group and the third group have different lengths and are combined to be connected in parallel with the first group, and

the second group and the third group are electrically connected to one another in series such that an effective wire length between the two main busbars is increased, to homogenize heating power in the triangular surface with heating power in the heating area.

In the heatable composite pane recited in Claim 18, heating wires in the second group and the third group are electrically connected to one another in series. Additionally, the serially connected heating wires from the second and third groups are connected in parallel with the heating wires from the first group, which are located between two parallel main busbars. Accordingly, homogeneous heating can be achieved throughout the composite pane.¹ It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 18.

Marriott describes a backlight 10 including a glass sheet having a central body portion 12 and side portions 13 which are bent at sharp angles about straight lines 15.² Additionally, the backlight 10 is provided with an electrical heating circuit 25 including silver-class frit lines 26 extending across a central portion 12 and the side portions 13 of the sheet 60.³ Additionally, the backlight 10 includes electrically conducting paths 30 and busbars 27.⁴ The Office Action, in section 5 on page 4, equates the electrically conductive paths 30 described in Marriott with the claimed at least two busbars.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Marriott does not disclose or suggest “in the area of the outer triangular surface, heating wires in the second group and the third group have different lengths and are combined to be connected in parallel with the first group, and the second group and the third group are electrically connected to one another in series such that an effective wire length between the two main busbars is increased, to homogenize heating power in the triangular surface with heating power in the heating area,” as recited in amended Claim 18.

Instead, as explained at column 7, line 59 to column 8, line 5, Marriott explicitly describes that the paths 30 cannot adequately serve as busbars. Further, Marriott expressly

¹ See the original specification, for example, at page 7, line 16 to page 8, line 5.

² See Marriott, at column 2, lines 50-55 and in Figure 2.

³ See Marriott, at column 3, lines 12-19.

⁴ See Marriott, at column 4, lines 43-48.

teaches away from using the paths 30 as busbars due to cross-sectional limitations and aesthetic concerns. Thus, the electrically conducting paths 30 described in Marriott are not the claimed “at least two main busbars.” Additionally, as can be seen in Figure 3, the two busbars 27 are not parallel to one another.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the shorter groups of wires in the side portions 13 in Marriott are not electrically connected in series to one another. Also, the lines 26 in the side portions described in Marriott are connected in series to the lines 26 of the central portion of the backlight 10, and not in parallel. Thus, the lines 26 described in Marriott are not the claimed first group, second group, and third group of heating wires.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Marriott does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 18. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 18, and all claims dependent thereon, as anticipated by Marriott be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 29 as unpatentable over Marriott in view of Ruelle, it is noted that Claim 29 is hereby canceled. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is moot.

Regarding the outstanding rejection of Claims 27 and 31 as unpatentable over Marriott in view of Shibata, it is noted that Claim 27 is dependent on Claim 18, and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 18. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Shibata does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Marriott. Additionally, it is noted that Claim 31 is hereby canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 27 is patentable over Marriott in view of Shibata.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 30 as unpatentable over Marriott in view of Bethge, and the rejection of Claim 31 as unpatentable over Marriott in view of Gillary, it is noted that

Claims 30 and 31 are hereby canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are moot.

New Claims 35-39 are added by the present amendment. Support for new Claims 35-39 can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 4, line 29 to page 5, line 2, at page 6, line 9 to page 9, line 8, and in Figures 1 and 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

It is noted that Claims 35-37 depend on independent Claim 18. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 18, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 35-37 patentably define over the cited references.

Claim 38 recites, *inter alia*, a heatable composite pane, including:

a second busbar provided at the bottom region of the composite pane and receiving bottom ends of the first group and the fourth group of heating wires to connect the first group of heating wires in parallel with a combination of the second group, the third group, and the fourth group of heating wires;

a third busbar provided at the bottom region of the composite pane and receiving bottom ends of the second group and the third group of the heating wires to connect the second group and third group of heating wires in series; and

a fourth busbar provided at the side region of the composite pane and receiving top ends of the third group and the fourth group of heating wires to connect the third group and the fourth group of heating wires in series,

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 18, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in new Claim 38. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 38 patentably defines over the cited references.

Claim 39 recites, *inter alia*, a heatable composite pane, including:

a second busbar provided at the bottom region and a second portion of the side region of the composite pane and receiving bottom ends of the first group and top ends of the

third group of heating wires to connect the first group of heating wires in parallel with a combination of the second group and the third group of heating wires; and

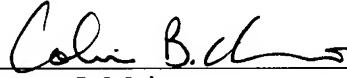
a third busbar provided at the bottom region of the composite pane and receiving bottom ends of the second group and the third group of heating wires to connect the second group and the third group of heating wires in series,

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 18, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in new Claim 39. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that new Claim 39 patentably defines over the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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